

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01

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R 111720Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2466

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SOCIALISTS ACCUSE PCP OF ATTEMPTING INFORMATION MEDIA
TAKEOVER

1. SOCIALISTS (PS) LAUNCHED MAJOR ATTACK APRIL 9 AND 10 AGAINST
COMMUNIST (PCP) DOMINATION AND ATTEMPTED TAKEOVER OF MAJOR
PORTUGUESE INFORMATION MEDIA. PS SPOKESMEN POINTED TO RECENT
PERSONNEL SHIFTS IN NEWS DEPARTMENT OF STATE-OWNED TELEVISION
NETWORK (RTP) AND RADIO (EN), AS WELL AS STATION "RADIO
CLUBE PORTUGUES" (RCP), AND CHANGE IN TOP MANAGEMENT AT MAJOR
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS." PS ACCUSED PCP OF
ATTEMPTING TO TAKE OVER "MAJOR PART OF NEWS ORGANS" WITH AIM OF
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"COMPROMISING THE INDEPENDENCE AND OBJECTIVITY" OF NEWS COM-

MUNICATED TO PUBLIC.

2. PS' EFFORT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY COORDINATED. PARTY OWNED AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER "REPUBLICA" CARRIED LONG INTERVIEW APRIL 9 WITH PS STALWART ALVARO GUERRA, FORMER NEWS HEAD AT RTP, WHO RESIGNED APRIL 4 AFTER MAJOR PERSONNEL SHUFFLE OF HIS NEWS STAFF WAS IMPOSED BY (AFM) RTP INFORMATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, LT. BRAGAO DOS SANTOS. GUERRA CHARGED THAT SHUFFLE SUBSTITUTED INDIVIDUALS "CLOSELY TIED" TO PCP FOR MEMBERS OF HIS NEWS TEAM. ON APRIL 10 PS NATIONAL SECRETARIAT ISSUED COMMUNIQUE CHARGING PCP MEDIA-WIDE TAKEOVER EFFORT. DURING ALLOTTED TV CAMPAIGN TIME ON APRIL 10, PS SECRETARY GENERAL MARIO SOARES REPEATED SAME CHARGE. OTHER PS SPOKESMEN IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF HAVE PURSUED SAME THEME.

3. RESPONDING EDITORIALY TO CHARGE, DIARIO STATED ON APRIL 11 THAT PERHAPS IT IS NECESSARY TO REMIND SOARES THAT OTHER PARTIES DID NOT COMPLAIN WHEN FORMER MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER AND WELL KNOWN SOCIALIST RAUL REGO HAD DIARIO AND EN UNDER HIS DIRECTION. DIARIO DENIED THAT ALL OF SUBSTITUTIONS EFFECTED AT RTP INVOLVED COMMUNISTS. EDITORIAL CONTINUED BY STATING THAT IT WOULD PAY NO ATTENTION TO CHARGES WERE IT NOT FOR (SOARES') PUBLIC PROMINENCE AND THE SUSPICIONS CAST AGAINST NEWSPAPER'S "STRICTLY NON-PARTISAN" APPROACH. CARLUCCI

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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